

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 SSO-00 /123 W
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R 051652Z COT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2754

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USIA FOR IEE, IBS/PS, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJ: THREE U.S. CORRESPONDENTS ROUGHED UP, DETAINED

REF: MOSCOW 11635

SUMMARY: THREE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS WERE ROUGHTED UP
MIDDAY OCT. 5 OUTSIDE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS HEAD-
QUARTERS AFTER TWO OF THEM TOOK PHOTOS OF FIVE RUSSIANS
DEMONSTRATING OFR EXIT VISAS AND WERE IMMEDIATELY DETAINED
IN BUILDING FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES. THEIR FILM WAS NOT TAKEN.
END SUMMARY.

1. CHRISTOPHER OGDEN AND GORDON JOSELOFF OF UPI, WITH CAMERAS,
AND JOHN SHAW OF TIME WERE KNEED, SHOVED AND HAD
PUNCHES THROWN AT THEM BY UP TO FIVE PLAINCLOTHESMEN AT
ABOUT 1145 OCT. 15 WHILE COVERING A DEMONSTRATION BY FIVE
RUSSIANS WHOSE PLACARDS WERE IMMEDIATELY TORN FROM THEM
CORRESPONDENTS, TOLD LAST NIGHT OF THE PLANNED DEMONSTRATION,
WERE STANDING ACROSS STREET, ABOUT 50 YARDS FROM
COURTYARD WHERE FIVE MEN UNFURLED PLACARDS.

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2. DURING SCUFFLING FOR ABOUT THREE MINUTES ON STREET, UP TO FIVE PLAINCLOTHESMEN ROUGHED UP OGDEN AND JOSELOFF WHILE SHAW ATTEMPTED TO RPOVIDE INTERFERENCE WITH BODY. CORRESPONDENTS SAY THEY OFFERED NO OVERT RESISTANCE AND AT NO TIME ATTEMPTED TO PROVOKE PLAINCLOTHESMEN.

3. WHEN PHOTOGRAPHERS FROG-MARCHED TO BUILDING, SHAW FOLLOWED, PROTESTING VERBALLY, UNTIL HE WITH OTHERS ALSO DRAGGED, PUSHED AND SHOVED INTO BUILDING. OGDEN HAD LEFT ARM BRUISES AND SLIGHTLY TORN COAT.

4. CORRESPONDENTS ASKED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO TELEPHONE U.S. EMBASSY BUT WERE TOLD TO WAIT. AFTER SEVERAL APPARENTLY HIGHER-RANKING OFFICERS CAME INTO DETENTION AREA, WHERE FIVE DEMONSTRATORS ALSO WERE HELD, CORRESPONDENTS TOLD IN RUSSINA, "YOU ARE FREE TO GO." A PREVIOUS OFFICER, ON LEARNING THE CORRESPONDENTS WERE AMERICANS, TILTED BACK HEAD AND ROLLED EYES TOWARD CEILING. THEIR FILM WAS NEITHER TAKEN NOR REQUESTED, AND UPI ATTEMPTED TO SEND OUT FILM WITUF PERSON LEAVING ON FLIGHT TODAY. (FYI, TASS REFUSES TRANSMIT PHOTOS OF DEMONSTRATIONS DESPITE CONTRACTS WITH BOTH AP AND UPI THAT THEY WILL MOVE ALL PHOTOS.)

5. IN DETENTION AREA, ONE OF FIVE UNFURLED HIDDEN SIGN READING, "FREE MY FRIENDS." OTHER SIGNS HAD STARS OF DAVID.

6. UPI BUREAU CHIEF RAY MOSELEY SENT NOTE TO MFA PRESS SECTION DETAILING AND OBJECTING TO INCIDENT AND REQUESTING EXPLANATION. SHAW PLANNING INFORM HOME OFFICE AND REQUEST GUIDANCE.

COMMENT: EXCEPT IN STRICTEST SENSE SOVIET CONDUCT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN VIOLATION OF ACCESS PROVISIONS OF CONSULAR CONVENTION. EMBASSY FEELS, HOWEVER, THAT INTERFERENCE WITH CORRESPONDENTS CARRYING OUT JOURNALIST DUTIES AS WELL AS ROUGH HANDLING DOES WARRANT EMBASSY COMPLAINT. EMBASSY PLANS RAISE ASAP AFTER WEEKEND WITH MFA PRESS SECTION.

DUBS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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